

**DODGE COUNTY
JUDICIAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING
May 8, 2020**

Call to order: Meeting was called to order by acting Chair, Thomas Nickel at 8:00 a.m.; a quorum was established with the following members present:

Thomas Nickel, Larry Schraufnagel (*appeared by phone*), David Guckenberger, Del Yaroch, and Ed Benter

Also Present: James Mielke-County Administrator; Brian Pfitzinger-Circuit Court Judge; Joseph Sciascia-Circuit Court Judge; Lynn Hron-Clerk of Courts; Kurt Klomberg-District Attorney; Bob Barrington-District Attorney Managing Attorney; Karen Krentz-Lead Worker & interim Director for Child Support Agency; Dale Schmidt-Dodge County Sheriff; Scott Mittelstadt-Chief Deputy; Patrick Schoebel-Medical Examiner; Shelby Brandsma-Director of Family Court Services; Kristine Snow-Circuit Court Judge Elect; Cathy Houchin-County Board Supervisor (*appeared by phone*); Gina Steinke-Br. 2 Judicial Assistant.

Introduction of Committee Members & Staff: Everyone present introduced themselves and gave a brief summary to all the new members.

Elect Chairman, Vice Chairman & Secretary: Chair: Ed Benter nominated Thomas Nickel as Chair & David Guckenberger self nominated. Committee Members voted as follows: Thomas Nickel voted for Thomas Nickel; Del Yaroch voted for Thomas Nickel; Larry Schraufnagel voted for Thomas Nickel; David Guckenberger voted for David Guckenberger; Ed Benter voted for Thomas Nickel. Thomas Nickel appointed Chairman.

Vice Chairman: David Guckenberger self nominated. No other nominations. David Guckenberger moves to close with a unanimous ballot.

Secretary: David Guckenberger nominates Ed Benter. Larry Schraufnagel moves to close with a unanimous ballot.

Set regular meeting date/place/time: Determination of place will be held off for now, will either be held in auditorium in Admin. Building or District Attorney's office conference room. It was decided to keep date as the first Friday of every month.

Discuss Options for distribution of Agenda & Packet: Sheriff's Office asked to turn over the task of distributing the monthly agenda and packet. District Attorney's office volunteered to have a staff member take over these duties. The Minutes will continue to be prepared by a Judicial Assistant of the Courts.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Larry Schraufnagel to approve Minutes of March 6, 2020 meeting; second by Del Yaroch. Motion carried.

Brief Department Overviews / Department Projected 2020 & 2021 Budget Modifications:

Judicial Branches: Judge Pfitzinger gave summary.

District Attorney: Kurt Klomberg and Bob Barrington gave summary.

Sheriff's Office: Dale Schmidt gave summary.

Clerk of Courts: Lynn Hron gave summary.

Register in Probate: Brian Pfitzinger gave summary for Lynn Steger.

Family Court Office: Brian Pfitzinger gave summary for Steve Seim.

Family Court Counseling Services: Shelby Brandsma gave summary.

Child Support: Karen Krentz gave summary.

Medical Examiner: PJ Schoebel gave summary.

Courts: Brian Pfitzinger reports the Courts are discussing various ideas re: safety precautions that can be used once the Courts re-open.

District Attorney: Kurt Klomberg and Bob Barrington reported they put on hold for now the new paralegal position. Kurt states because of all of the technology advancements Bob had implemented in their office, they have access to their files, warrants, and anything other than being in person which enabled most of their office staff and attorneys to work remotely from home during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sheriff's Office: *(handout provided)* Dale Schmidt states they have decided to hold off on two of the three Resolutions that were approved at the March 7th meeting. Dale states they would like to abolish one position of Deputy Sheriff and create one position of Patrol Sergeant. Question – when was the position created? Answer is August of 2018. Sheriff states they currently do not have a crash investigation team, they have one patrol deputy trained. Question – what is the long term goal here? Sheriff states the long term goal is to have one person work full-time in the crash investigation position. Questions – why is the title of Sergeant necessary? Why can't this person just be a deputy? Sheriff states it needs to be a supervisory role, it will entail a lot of responsibility, the span of control is too great.

The Sheriff's Office will be contracting with an outside company to do transports and project staff and budget savings.

Clerk of Courts: *(handout provided)* Lynn Hron briefly went over 1st Quarter 2020 jury expense report.

Medical Examiner: *(handout provided - 2020 case activities to date)* PJ noted that the handout lists "all accidents" and that covers accidents due to falls, not just traffic accidents. PJ reports that because of the Covid-19 pandemic, his staff has actually expanded their hours so they're not all in the office at the same time which has cut down on part-time deputies time so they've actually saved a bit of money.

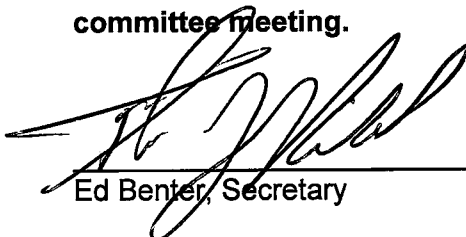
Question – is it relevant to keep the "Baby Theresa" story from 2009 on the ME's website? PJ stated yes it is very relevant and although it's a cold case, it is still an active case and they are hoping to find the parents. Bob Barrington stated that it is still an active investigation.

Child Support: Karen Krentz reports they have a staff of 11. They have approximately 4000 cases, approx. 860 cases for each worker. During the Covid-19 pandemic their hearings have been held by telephone.

Next Meeting: Friday, June 5, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at the Dodge County Administration Building, Rooms H&I.

Adjournment: Motion by David Guckenberger to adjourn meeting, second by Del Yaroch. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting.



Ed Benter, Secretary



Gina M. Steinke, Recording Secretary